

8th Grade Social Studies Test (New Format)——Chapter 14 (Westward Expansion).

Name: _____

Date: _____

Before you answer the questions below, define the following terms as they will be of importance to you when you formulate your answers:

Manifest Destiny:

American Exceptionalism:

Use the following documents to answer the questions:

During the mid-1800's Texans declared their independence from Santa Anna, the president of Mexico at the time. The following documents declare what they believe to be the true reasons for Texas attempting to separate from Mexico.

Document A:

Texas Declaration of Independence (March 2, 1836) [Adapted]

When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people . . . it is the right of the people to abolish such government, and create another one that will secure their future welfare and happiness.

General Santa Anna, has overturned the constitution of his country, and now offers us the cruel option either to abandon our homes, or submit to [him].

Question #1: What is the main purpose (why the document has been created/what is it trying to convince its audience of?) of this document?

Question #2: What is the main piece of evidence given to defend its purpose?

Document B:

We cannot trust the American colonists (settlers) because they are continually demonstrating that they refuse to follow our laws, unless it is convenient for them. ...They have been using their own colonists as judges and practicing their own laws, forgetting that they swore to obey the laws of Mexico.

Source: The letter above was written by Rafael Antonio Manchola, a Tejano (Mexican living in Texas). He wrote this letter about the Anglo-Americans in 1826 to a military commander.

Document C:

We have been asked to believe that the inhabitants of Texas have been fighting to maintain the sacred principles of Liberty, and the natural, inalienable Rights of Man:---their motives have been exactly the opposite.

[It] has been to grab the large and valuable territory of Texas from the Mexican Republic, in order to re-establish the SYSTEM OF SLAVERY; to open a vast and profitable SLAVEMARKET; and, ultimately, to annex it to the United States.

Source: Benjamin Lundy became active in the antislavery movement in the 1820s. He organized abolitionist societies, lectured extensively, and contributed to many

abolitionist publications. He wrote this pamphlet called The War in Texas in 1836. Lundy argued that the Texas revolution was a slaveholders' plot to take Texas from Mexico and to add slave territory to the United States.

Question #3: Compare and contrast Document B with Document C. How are they similar and how are they different?

—How are they similar? (Hint: Do the documents support that the main reason for independence is that which is stated in Document A? Why or why not?).

—How are they different? (Hint: What are the main reasons that they state Texas is trying to gain independence?)

Document D:

The right of conquest has always been a crime against humanity... [W]ith an enemy... which shamefacedly derides the very principles invoked by it previously in order to excuse its ambitious views, we have no other resource than arms. We are fortunately always prepared to take them up with glory, in defense of our country... [and] to assure our nationality and independence...

- *General Francisco Mejia, March 18, 1846.*

Document E:



Question #4:

How do Document D and Document E support each other?

This cartoon criticizes the Whig Party's presidential candidate for 1848. Here the "available candidate" is either General Zachary Taylor. The skulls and sword allude to the bloody but successful Mexican War campaigns waged. This made him popular with many Whigs, but not with this artist.